

II. COMMUNITY LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

Bowleys Quarters is located in southeast Baltimore County on the Chesapeake Bay. It consists of Middle River Neck extended northwest to Eastern Avenue and north to Carroll Island Road. The peninsula is bounded by Frog Mortar Creek, Middle River, Chesapeake Bay, and Seneca Creek. (See Fig.1).

The topography is relatively flat with poorly defined drainage patterns. Most elevations are less than 10 feet. Geology of the area consists of alternate layers of silt, clay and unconsolidated sand and gravel. Most undeveloped areas are wooded, covering hydra and other wet soils. Approximately 85 % of the community is within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area. There are over 18 miles of shoreline on the peninsula offering quality recreational activity for community residents.

The development pattern consists of waterfront homes originally constructed many years ago, often as summer residences. Most are currently served by private septic disposal systems. Much of the peninsula interior is farmland or forested. Newer development is concentrated on the upper peninsula along Eastern Avenue, Carroll Island Road and the east side of Bowleys Quarters Road at Seneca Gardens Road. Development in these areas consists of both single unit and multi-unit dwellings served by public sewerage. Miami Beach County Park is located on the Bay at the southeast tip of the peninsula.

Commercial development generally consists of restaurants, bars, fast food restaurants, gas stations and the Carroll Island Shopping Center, all concentrated on the upper peninsula, and more than a dozen marinas on the rivers and creeks. In addition to being responsive to customers, it is essential that businesses also be responsive to the citizens of the community. This means working in partnership with residents and local authorities in ways that are beneficial to the community.

A proposed County sewerage system will cover the entire peninsula utilizing a gravity system and a limited number of grinder pumps on the upper peninsula and a grinder pump pressure system on the lower peninsula.

Outside influences having a direct impact on the community are:

- Martin State Airport.
- Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) Crane Power Plant.
- The Eastern Boulevard/Avenue corridor.
- Proposed MD Route 43.
- Future development of the A. V. Williams tract.
- Hart-Miller Island disposal site.
- The types of recreational and commercial water use and the biological and chemical quality of surrounding waters.

Note: While revising the plan, it became apparent that the land area which served as the geographic area for the data in the 1992 version of the Bowleys

Quarters Plan did not correspond to the area shown as the community boundary in the beginning of that plan. Instead, the area used as a data source corresponds to the census tract for Bowleys Quarters, minus the area within census block #9. (Census block #9 corresponds to Carroll Island, which is part of Aberdeen Proving Ground, a military training facility).

The advisory committee had to decide whether to use the same area that served as the data source in 1992, or to change the area to correspond to the community boundary. The committee recommends using the same area as a data source as was used in The Bowleys Quarters Community Action Plan of 1992. The rationale for this decision is that utilizing the same base area facilitates comparisons between the data presented in the original plan and data obtained for the revised plan.

Some of the discrepancies between the 1992 data and the 1999 data may be due to differences in technology. That is, today's data is computer generated, whereas the original data was arranged manually.